

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-41 were pending in the application prior this submission.

In the present Amendment, claims 1, 4, 15, 21, 24, 35 and 41 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced as a result of this Amendment.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and §103(a):

Claims 1-9, 11-17, 21-28, 35-37 and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by DeWeese, et al. (Applicants note that even though the Office Action rejects the claims over DeWeese, (USPN: 6,544,121) the cited paragraphs actually correspond to DeWeese (US 2005/0262542); for the purpose of this Amendment, it is assumed the rejection corresponds to DeWeese (US 2005/0262542)).

Claims 10, 18-20, 29-34 and 38-40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over DeWeese (US 2005/0262542) in view of Aaltonen (US 2001/0005182).

Applicants respectfully submit that DeWeese (US 2005/0262542) relates to a television chat system which allows television viewers to engage in real-time communications in chat groups with other television viewers while watching television. Users of the television chat system may engage in real-time communications with other users who are currently watching the same television program or channel. The system allows real-time communications in a chat group to be transmitted between users at user television equipment devices via a television distribution facility. (Emphasis added)

Applicants assert that the present invention, as claimed, is clearly distinguishable from the DeWeese disclosure. For example, independent claim 1 currently recites:

1. A method comprising:
 - a. hosting a first user and a second user;
 - b. transmitting a broadcast service to said first user;
 - c. receiving a broadcast request from said second user, said broadcast request for said broadcast service; and
 - d. transmitting said broadcast service to said second user.

The present invention, as claimed, clearly sets forth that, *inter alia*, a second user requests a broadcast service that is being transmitted to a first user. In response, the second user

receives the broadcast service which is being transmitted to the first user. DeWeese fails to teach, suggest or disclose such a feature.

With respect to this distinguishing feature, the Office Action states on page two that “[t]elevision broadcast services are provided to various users on different channels. User B is free to tune to the channel being watched by user A at any time.” However, DeWeese merely discloses a chat system which allows users to engage in real-time communications with other users who are currently watching the same television program or channel. Therefore, DeWeese does not disclose receiving a request from a second user for a broadcast service being transmitted to a first user. In the system of DeWeese, since the users are already watching the same program, neither user will request the service being transmitted to the other user. Again, DeWeese clearly includes no teaching or suggestion of receiving a broadcast request from a second user for a broadcast service being transmitted to a first user, as recited in at least independent claim 1.

Furthermore, Aaltonen neither recites nor implies receiving a broadcast request from a second user for a broadcast service being transmitted to a first user. As a result, Aaltonen does not remedy the discrepancies discussed with respect to DeWeese above.

In view of the above, at least independent claims 1, 15, 21, 35 and 41 are distinguishable from the DeWeese and Aaltonen references, taken alone or in combination. The remaining claims depend from these independent claims, and therefore, are also distinguishable. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-41 now be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of the application.

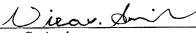
AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4208-4050. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4208-4050. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: December 19, 2007

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